Columnist Releases ITT Memo

Following is the text of the ITT memorandum on which the recent Jack Anderson columns have been based. The material was released by Anderson. It is on the stationery of ITT's Washington office.

PERSONAL AND
CONFIDENTIAL

Date: June 25, 1971

To: W. R. Merriam
From: D. D. Beard
Subject:
San Diego Convention

I just had a long talk with EJG [E. J. Gerrity, ITT's public relations chief], I'm so sorry that we got that call from the White House. I thought you and I had agreed very thoroughly that under no circumstances would anyone in this office discuss with anyone our participation in the Convention, including me. Other than permtting John Mitchell, [Calif. Gov.] Ed Reinecke, Bob Haldeman and Nixon (besides Wilson, of course) *no one* has known from whom that 400 thousand committment had come. You can't imagine how many queries I've had from "friends" about this situation and I have in each and every case denied knowledge of any kind. It would be wise for all of us here to continue to do that, regardless of from whom any questions come; White House or whoever. John Mitchell has certainly kept it on the higher level only, we should be abe to do the same.

I was afraid the discussion about the three hundred/four hundred thousand committment would come up soon. If you remember, I suggested that we all stay out of that, other than the fact that I told you I had heard Hal [Harold Geneen, ITT president] up the original amount.

Now I understand from Ned that both he and you are upset about the decision to make it four hundred in *services*. Believe me, this is not what Hal said. Just after I talked with Ned, Welson called me, to report on his meeting with Hal. Hal at no time told Wilson that our donation would be in services ONLY. In fact, quite the contrary. There would be very little cash involved, but certainly some. I am convinced, because of several conversations with Louie [former Kentucky Gov. Nunn] re Mitchell, that our noble committment has gone a long way toward our negotiations on the mergers eventually coming out as Hal wants them. Certainly the President has told Mitchell to see that things are worked out fairly. It is still only [Antitrust chief Richard] McLaren's mickey-mouse we are suffering.

We all know Hal and his big mouth! But this is one time he cannot tell you and Ned one thing and Wilson (and me) another!

I hope, dear Bill, that all of this can be reconciled—between Hal and Wilson—if all of us in this office remain totally ignorant of any committment ITT has made to anyone. If it gets too much publicity, you can believe our negotiations with Justice will wind up shot down. Mitchell is definitely helping us, but cannot let it be known. Please destroy this, huh?